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Appl. No.: 10/541,085
Reply to Office Action of: 02/25/2009

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please cancel claim(s) 8, and 21-23 without prejudice.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A keypad comprising:

a set of switches;

a set of mechanical key elements arranged in a plane wherein each mechanical key element has a fixed position in the plane relative to the fixed positions of each other mechanical key element wherein each mechanical key element is capable of being moved by a user so as to operate a respective switch and wherein each mechanical key element comprises a separate outer pad for actuation by a user; and

a continuous flexible display film, extending beneath the set of mechanical key elements and over the set of switches and configured to position the set of mechanical key elements for user actuation and to present a plurality of controllable pixels under each of the mechanical key elements and arranged to flex when a user moves any one of the set of mechanical key elements to operate a respective switch and a display controller operable to control the continuous flexible display film to have a first display output in which a first set of indicia are displayed in association with the set of mechanical key elements and a second display output in which a second set of indicia, different to the first set of indicia,

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are displayed in association with the set of mechanical key elements.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) A keypad as claimed in claim 1, wherein the key elements are rigid elements interconnected by the continuous flexible display film.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) A keypad as claimed in claim 1, wherein each outer pad is transparent.

6. (Previously presented) A keypad as claimed in claim 1, wherein the continuous flexible display film is configured to emit light.

7. (Previously presented) An electronic device including a keypad as claimed in claim 1 and the said display controller.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) An electronic device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the first mode is a numeric input mode and the first set of indicia are numeric indicia, and the second mode is an alphabetic input mode and the second set of indicia are alphabetic indicia.

10. (Previously presented) An electronic device as claimed in claim 9, wherein in the first and second modes the indicia displayed from each key element is indicative of the character that would be input on pressing the key element.

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11. (Previously presented) An electronic device as claimed in claim 10, wherein in the second mode the character that would be input on pressing the key element is dependent on the number of times the key element has been pressed within a predetermined time period of each previous such press without the pressing of another of the key elements.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) A keypad as claimed in claim 1, wherein each switch is positioned directly underneath a nib of its respective key element.

15. (Previously presented) An electronic device as claimed in claim 8 wherein the key elements are arranged to protrude through individual holes in a housing of the electronic device.

16. (Previously presented) A keypad comprising:

a display device comprising a first side and an opposite second side;

a plurality of mechanical key elements connected to the first side of the display device, wherein each of the plurality of mechanical key elements comprises an outer pad extending from the first side of the display device, and wherein the outer pad is configured to be operated by a user of the keypad; and

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a plurality of switches opposite the second side of the of the display device, wherein each of the plurality of switches corresponds to one of the plurality of mechanical key elements;

wherein the display device comprises a light emissive layer extending underneath the plurality of mechanical key elements and over the plurality of switches;

wherein a display pattern of the display device can be varied under the control of a display controller, and arranged so as to be capable of propagating two or more patterns of light from at least some of the key elements;

whereby indicia may be displayed from the key elements and the displayed indicia varied under the control of the display controller.

17. (Previously presented) A keypad as claimed in claim 16 further comprising a plurality of nibs connected to the second side of the display device, wherein each of the plurality of nibs corresponds to one of the plurality of mechanical key elements.

18. (Previously presented) A keypad as claimed in claim 17 further comprising a plurality of resilient members between the plurality of nibs and the plurality of switches.

19. (Previously presented) A keypad as claimed in claim 1, wherein the continuous flexible display film is a transfective continuous flexible display film.

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20. (Previously presented) A keypad as claimed in claim 1, wherein the continuous flexible display film is a transmissive continuous flexible display film.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)